

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Writing is one of four components from language skills, besides reading, listening and speaking. According to Byrne (1980:24) writing is a primary means of recording speech, even though it must be acknowledged as a secondary medium of communication. So, writing allows us to express ourselves. Through writing we can inform others, carry out transactions, persuade, infuriate, tell how we feel, come to terms with problems, and learn to shape our thoughts, our ideas and our lives.

Teaching writing in Junior High School is so challenging. It is because the students still did not know how to write something in piece of paper even though they have good ability in grammar. As we all know, writing skill is more complex and difficult to teaching, requiring, and mastering not only of grammatical and rhetorical devices but also conceptual and judgment, because of the difficulties of writing, some efforts have been done to solve the problem .The main objective is to make the writing become easier to learn for the students.

So, writing is like direct speech that is used by people to get communication with each other for expressing their ideas, feeling and opinion in their society. Writing also gives some other benefits. Besides being means of communication, writing can also create jobs. In beginning writing, it is just an activity to express our idea, opinion, or feeling in the text. Writing can also be a hobby to spend

ourtime, but finally in this modern life, people can get money from doing their writing, for example a journalist, novelist or scrip writer.

According to the writer's experience when she observed SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati, she got the data that writing score the students of SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati are lower than standard score. The lowest score is 40 and the highest score is 80 while standard score is 70. Moreover, some students of the seventh grade in SMP Negeri 2 Sukolilo Pati said that most of them have less confidence in writing. Although, the teacher has used many methods to teach writing, for example: jigsaw, arrange the sentences or paragraphs, write genre texts, games and song, write a story based on the picture and write in dairy book.

To solve the problem, the writer uses Stem Poems. According to Palmer (1994:232) Stem Poems or frame poems is making a poem using stem. The teacher gives the students sentences or phrase stems or frames for them to complete and which, when completed, make something that is almost a poem. So, the teacher makes stem poems first and then the students fill in the blank of that Stem poems. The aim of this research is not only to help the students to write something easily but also encourage the students to look for many new vocabularies.

The writer chooses SMP Negeri 2 Sukolilo Pati because most of students in that school have difficulties in writing skill. The reasons are that it takes a lot of time to think about the topic that they are going to write, they have view ideas and inspirations and they only have little knowledge about technique of writing. Then,

the writer hopes that the technique can be responded by the students. It is also hoped the technique can motivate the students in writing English.

Considering to the problem above, the writer would like to do research entitled “Teaching Writing to the Seventh Grade Students of SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati in Academic Year 2012/2013 by Using Stem Poems.”

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the writer states the problem “is there any significant difference of writing ability of the seventh grade students of SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati in the Academic Year 2012/2013 before and after being taught by using Stem Poems?”

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research that the writer wants to achieve in her research is to find out whether or not there is any significant difference of writing ability of the seventh grade students of SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati in the Academic Year 2012/2013 before and after being taught by using Stem Poems.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The writer hopes that this research will give some significance as follows:

1. *Theoretically*, this research can contribute Stem Poems as a technique to teach writing.
2. *Practically*, the result of the research can be used as additional information about how to use Stem Poems for English teachers.

3. *Pedagogically*, the result of the research can be useful for the students to learn how to use Stem Poems in writing. So, they have new experience about it and enjoy writing something in English.

1.5 Scope of the Research

To limit the problems in this research, the writer only focuses on the students' English writing. In order to encourage their English writing of the seventh grade of SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati, this is taught by using Stem Poems. It is because Stem Poems is an activity between the teacher and the students. Here, the teacher makes stem poems first and then the students fill in the blank of that steam poems. So, Stem Poems is appropriate technique for teaching of writing to the seventh students in SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati.

1.6 Operational Definition

In this research, it is necessary to clarify definition of the term in the study in other to avoid misunderstanding. It can be mentioned as follows:

1. Teaching writing is interaction between teacher and students in the English writing learning process based on the material from English syllabus of the seventh grade students of SMPN 2 Sukolilo Pati in order that the students are able to express their ideas and feeling in written form.
2. The Seventh Grade Students of SMP Negeri 2 Sukolilo Pati in the academic year 2012/2013 are the students who are studying in SMP Negeri 2 Sukolilo Pati especially in seventh grade.

3. Stem Poems is an activity between the teacher and the students. Here, the teacher makes stem poems first and then the students fill in the blank of that steam poems.

